

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES TO MAGISTRATE JUDGES

58.01: *Assignment of Duties to Magistrate Judges.*

- (A) Misdemeanor Cases. All misdemeanor cases shall be assigned by the Clerk of Court to the Magistrate Judge(s) designated for the division in which the case is brought.
- (B) Felony Cases. All felony cases shall be assigned by the Clerk of Court to the Magistrate Judge(s) designated for the division in which the case is brought for the conduct of an arraignment and related proceedings and for such other pretrial proceedings as are directed by the District Judge.
- (C) Method of Case Assignment. Unless otherwise specified by order of the Chief Judge of the district, criminal cases shall be assigned by division as follows:
 - (1) The Magistrate Judge(s) in Columbia shall be assigned criminal cases filed in the Aiken, Columbia, Orangeburg, and Rock Hill Divisions not arising at Fort Jackson or Shaw Air Force Base;
 - (2) The Magistrate Judge(s) in Charleston shall be assigned cases filed in the Charleston and Beaufort Divisions;
 - (3) The Magistrate Judge(s) in Greenville shall be assigned cases filed in the Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Greenwood Divisions;
 - (4) The Magistrate Judge(s) in Florence shall be assigned cases filed in the Florence Division;
 - (5) The Magistrate Judge(s) in Aiken shall be assigned cases originating at Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base.
 - (6) If there is more than one Magistrate Judge assigned to a given location, the cases covered by (1) – (5) above shall be assigned to those Magistrate Judges on a rotational basis.
- (D) District-Wide Jurisdiction. Nothing in this rule shall limit the district-wide jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge, prohibit a District Judge from assigning a specific matter to a specific Magistrate Judge, or prohibit the reassignment of a specific matter between Magistrate Judges on the concurrence of the Magistrate Judges and District Judge involved.

- (E) General. Nothing in these rules shall preclude the Court or a District Judge from reserving any proceeding for conduct by a District Judge, rather than a Magistrate Judge. The Court, moreover, may by order modify the method of assigning proceedings to a Magistrate Judge as changing conditions may warrant.